Online Preceptor Training Module to Improve the Clinical Experience

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Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists’ (SRNA) success in the nurse anesthesia program is heavily influenced by the clinical experience and effective teaching strategies of the Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) clinical educators (CE). However, most CRNA CEs do not receive formal preceptor education. Therefore, the purpose of this project was to provide an accessible online formal preceptor education program to CRNA CEs, working in the acute care hospital setting to improve knowledge, preceptor satisfaction, confidence, and comfort with precepting SRNAs. The specific aims were to a) conduct a baseline needs assessment of the CRNA CE, b) design and implement an online module based on the results of the needs assessment, c) evaluate for changes in knowledge of CRNA CE skills, preceptor satisfaction, confidence, and comfort following the completion of the online educational preceptor course with the use of pre-and post-test evaluations. The project methodology was modeled after and adapted with permission from Dr. Mary Scott-Herring’s previous study. The online education module was created following a review of the needs assessment results collected from 44 Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia clinical coordinators. Pre and post-test data was collected before and after completion of the module. A Spearman rank order correlation test revealed an inverse relationship between the number of years an individual had been a nurse and their confidence in precepting a SRNA from a different ethnic background, suggesting generation gaps may exist in the clinical arena. Further studies with a different Likert scale, larger sample size, and incorporation of in-person and online learning may better determine the effect of a precepting module on CRNA clinical educators in the future. Due to the limited research on this topic, this study demonstrates the importance of continuing to discover innovative methods to support the key educators of SRNA in the clinical setting.